

# The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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## Advancement

By Walter E. Myer

WE have so many troubles and fears in this war-clouded, atomic age that we are likely to become utterly discouraged and to think that we have lost completely the road to progress. When we fall into such a gloomy mood we need something to restore our faith, and we can gain poise and confidence by reading the history of the nation. This will give us an idea of the great forward movements which have characterized American life.

Consider, for example, our progress toward more humane living. We have gone a long way in that direction. A few days ago I was leafing through John Bach McMaster's "History of the People of the United States," and came upon his story of changes which have come about in the treatment of the unfortunate.

Writing of the years following the Revolution, McMaster tells of almost unbelievable brutalities, unnoticed or approved by the people. ". . . the laborer who fell from a scaffold or lay sick of a fever," he says, "was sure to be seized by the sheriff the moment he recovered, and be carried to jail for the bill of a few dollars which had been run up during his illness. . . ."

The jails and prisons where all kinds of offenders were thrown together were dark and filthy. There was no treatment for the ill. Insane persons were tied up by their thumbs and flogged. There was no mercy for the unemployed or their starving families.

The early Americans had many virtues and are in most respects entitled to the admiration of later generations, but, judged by our standards, most of them were cold and unsympathetic toward those who were in distress.



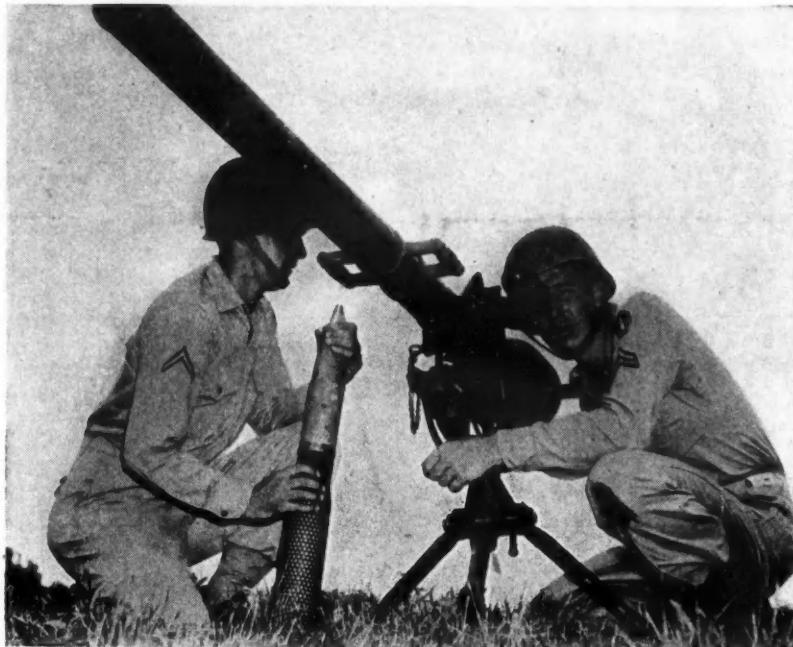
Walter E. Myer

Many people today are hard and cruel. A much larger number are thoughtless and inconsiderate. But giant strides have been made during the last century and a half toward the development of a truly humane society, and this is one of the most glorious achievements of our history.

The term "humane," is defined as "having or showing such helpfulness toward men and the lower animals as should characterize human beings; having or showing kindness and tenderness, with a desire to relieve distress."

More Americans than ever before measure up to that description. In increasing numbers men and women are moved by a sympathetic regard for the aged, the infirm, the unemployed, the poor. Not only is pity felt, but there is a widespread demand that something be done to relieve suffering and misfortune. There is greater interest today than ever before in the common welfare, in improving the health of all the people, in providing higher standards of living, in furnishing educational opportunity to all American youth.

Despite brutalizing wars America has clung to the humane ideal. That is her best claim to leadership in the world today.



U. S. ARMY

A LARGE PART of the national budget for the coming year will be spent for military purposes—to prepare for the possibility of a future war and to pay for past conflicts

## United States Budget

President Truman's Proposed 42-Billion-Dollar Outlay Is Now Being Examined by Members of 81st Congress

THE 51st Congress, which served from 1891 to 1893, appropriated approximately a billion dollars for the expenses of the government during the two-year period, and there were widespread complaints about such "extravagance." The Democrats, then the minority party, spoke accusingly of the "billion dollar Congress." The Republican leaders replied that America had become a "billion dollar country" and that the spending program was justified.

After that the expenses of the growing nation rose steadily but it was not until the First World War that the government spent more than a billion dollars in a single year. At the high point of the war it spent 18 billion.

When peace came expenses fell off, and from 1922 to 1931 the cost of government did not exceed 4 billion annually. During the depression years that followed, the government spent large sums to relieve distress and to supply work for the unemployed. Yearly spending rose to more than 7 billion dollars.

This seemed a tremendous total at the time, but the figure looks small compared to the costs of World War II. In 1945, the last year of the conflict, our government spent 100 billion dollars. Today federal expenditures are less than half of what they were at the war-time peak. Nevertheless, the rate of spending is still so high that it would have appeared fantastic only 15 or 20 years ago.

Congress is now considering President Truman's recommendation that it provide 42 billion dollars for the government to spend during the year beginning July 1, 1949 and ending

June 30, 1950. This period is known as the fiscal (or bookkeeping) year of 1950. The President and Congress must plan for the nation in advance. That is why they are considering the 1950 budget at this time.

The first step in planning is taken by the President. He looks over all the activities in which the government is engaging, and decides which ones he thinks should be continued. He also includes in his calculations any new projects which he feels should be undertaken.

With the help of advisers, the President then estimates the cost of this program for a year. Finally, he determines the amount and kinds of taxes which he thinks should be collected.

(Concluded on page 2)

## Communism in Southeast Asia

Will Conditions in This Region Make the People Turn to Russian Doctrines?

THERE is increasing evidence that Russia is seeking, throughout Southeast Asia and the Far East, to place native Communists in control of their governments. A number of the lands of this area have gained their independence from foreign rule in recent years. Others are still controlled by outside nations.

In both types of countries, the Communists are busily at work. Where the natives remain under foreign domination, the Communists stir up discontent and join the cries for freedom. Where independence has been gained, the Communists become bitter opponents of the new governments, and try to turn the people against their own leaders.

If this whole area, together with China, should become communized, Russia's power might reach to the shores of Australia. The Soviet leaders would then be able to control the rich rubber, tin, oil, and other resources of this region.

Thus far, the Communists have not actually come into control of any of these lands, but they are continuing to stir up all the trouble they can. They are waiting for their chance to seize power when conditions are favorable.

What is the present situation in lands of the Far East? Are conditions such that the Communists have a good chance of gaining control over them? In the attempt to answer these questions, we shall make a hurried survey of the area involved.

1. *Burma.* This is one of the countries which has gained independence since World War II. Formerly under British control, Burma was given complete freedom last January. With an

(Concluded on pages 6 and 7)



THREE LIONS  
BURMESE BOYS—the one on the left has adopted the western style of haircut, while the other wears the traditional Burmese style

# Congress Considers 42-Billion-Dollar Budget

(Concluded from page 1)

lected from the people to pay the expenses of the government.

After preparing the budget, the President sends it to Congress. Nothing, of course, can be spent by the government until it has the approval of the nation's lawmakers. The President recommends but Congress appropriates the money.

Before taking action, the Senate and House go over the President's proposals carefully. They usually make quite a few changes in his budget plans, but generally provide close to the total amount of money for which he asks. The lawmakers are now considering the budget which was presented to them by President Truman two weeks ago.

An examination of the budget shows that a large slice of the 42 billion dollars is to go for national defense. The President asks that over 14 billion dollars be provided for military purposes. How will this huge sum be spent?

To pay for the salaries, food, clothing, housing, travel, and training of 1,616,000 officers and men in the armed forces. To keep a large number of scientists and laboratories at work on developing the most modern implements of war. To enlarge and modernize the American Air Force. To build more submarines and other fighting craft for our Navy. These and other items will account for the defense expenses of 14 billion dollars.

## Help to Europe.

America is undertaking to defend herself, not only by building a great military machine, but by helping the nations of western Europe to recover from the war and become strong. Our assistance to Europe is not solely, of course, to enable the nations to help us in case of another war. We are acting for humanitarian reasons, too. Nevertheless, the aid is in part a military expense.

This plan costs money, and plenty of it. The budget estimate is that the expenses of the European Recovery Program will be 4½ billion dollars during the fiscal year 1950. In addition, it is planned that 355 million shall be spent in the assistance of Turkey, Korea, Greece, and China. The cost of our occupying enemy territory, principally Germany and Japan, is figured at a billion dollars.

Altogether, the expense of maintaining our forces in Europe and of giving assistance to our allies will come to over 6½ billion dollars. This sum, for all practical purposes, may be looked upon as defense spending.

Add the 6 1/2 billion-dollar cost of the foreign spending program to the 14 billion of actual military costs, and the total is 21 billion dollars to be used for our protection. This is half of the 42 billion total which is to be spent for all purposes.

We can see how expensive war is when we add to the 21 billion dollars of defense expenses the sums which we are obliged to pay for past wars. Take, for example, the cost of services and benefits to veterans.

It is proposed that nearly 2 billion dollars be spent for their education and training, and another 2 billion for pensions. Add to this medical care and other benefits, and we have a total of 5½ billion dollars for the veterans.

All this spending will be in payment of the costs of former wars.

Another 5 billion dollars must be spent to pay interest on the national debt. This is interest on money which was borrowed mainly to pay for earlier wars.

*So we have in the budget a recommendation that 21 billion dollars be spent to protect ourselves, and that 10 billion dollars be used to pay the costs of wars which have already been fought. The war and defense costs come, therefore, to 31 billion dollars, or three-fourths of all that the government is to spend.*

But what about the remaining 11

tor and hospital expenses of persons covered by the program.

Now let us examine the other big items which the President included in his budget:

(a) 1 ¾ billion dollars for developing atomic energy and for conserving our vital natural resources, such as forests, soil, minerals, wildlife, and so forth. The development of atomic energy must, of course, be regarded as partly for military preparedness and partly for peacetime purposes.

(b) 1 ½ billion dollars to be used for further improvement of our transportation and communication systems. The money is to be spent, among other

These are the chief items in the President's budget. Each of them will be carefully and critically examined in Congress. Certain of his proposals will be sharply attacked. It is unlikely that the defense expenses will be cut very much, but there will be hot debates on certain of the other presidential recommendations. There may be some whittling down here and there, but the total estimate of expenses will probably not be greatly reduced.

Where will the government get the money to pay for the huge expenses it will incur? At present most of its money is obtained from four sources:

(1) the income tax, paid by individuals; (2) the tax on corporations; (3) the excise tax, which is a special levy imposed upon liquor, tobacco, furs, jewelry, theater tickets, and other items which are considered to be in the luxury class; (4) the customs, or tax on goods imported into this country.

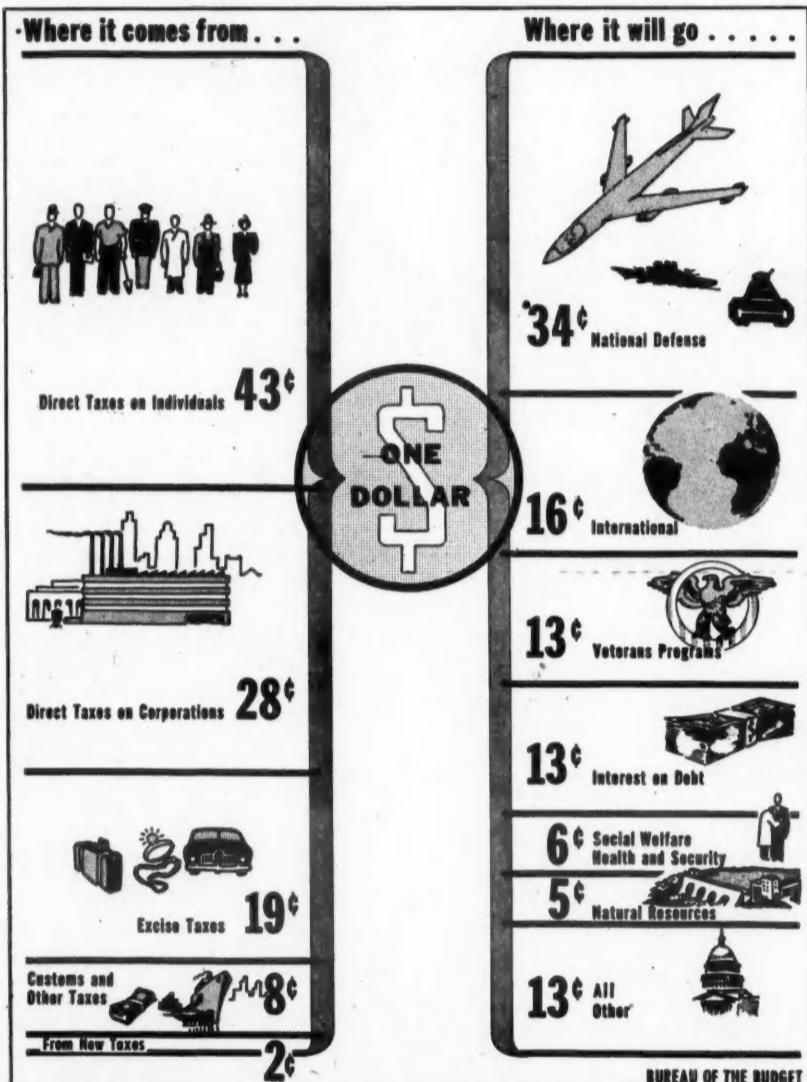
To gain an idea of what people are now paying the government in income taxes, let us take the case of a man who is married and has two children. The following figures show what he would pay on various incomes which he might earn:

Income	Tax
\$ 2,000	None
3,000	\$ 48
10,000	1,160
20,000	3,988
50,000	16,280
100,000	44,840
200,000	115,840

It is possible that these taxes, particularly the ones on the larger incomes, may be increased. The President recommends especially that higher taxes be imposed on corporations.

As the tax debate gets under way in Congress, we shall deal with the subject at length.

## Your Vocabulary



THE GOVERNMENT'S BUDGET DOLLAR—how it will be collected, and the items for which it will be spent, if the President's proposals are adopted

billion? For what purpose is that large sum to be used?

The budget calls for the spending of 2½ billion dollars on public assistance and other social welfare programs. This amount will permit some expansion of the programs.

Part of the 2½ billion dollars set aside for social security will be spent on improving the nation's health. The President wants the federal government to increase the grants which it is now making to state health agencies.

(In this connection, Mr. Truman did not ask for money to pay for the program of compulsory health insurance which he is urging Congress to adopt. If such a program should be adopted, it would cost a huge sum. The government would regularly collect money out of wages and profits, just as it is doing for the rest of the social security program, and the money would be used to pay the doc-

things, for public highways, for promotion of aviation and for the merchant marine.

(c) 1 ¾ billion dollars for various benefits to farmers and for the improvement of agriculture in general.

(d) 400 million dollars to be used for developing cheaper building materials and for helping in other ways to bring down housing costs.

(e) 300 million dollars for granting aid to states so that they can improve their schools and raise their educational standards. (The President included this item in his budget, but Congress has not given its approval of federal aid to education up to this time.)

(f) Over a billion dollars to be spent on the regular departments and agencies of the government. Included among these are the Department of State, Commerce, Labor, Agriculture, etc.

In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Correct answers are to be found on page 8, column 4.

1. The statement was later repudiated (rē-pü'di-ä-ted). (a) recorded (b) disclaimed (c) questioned (d) proved.

2. Wolves are carnivorous (kar-niv'o-rüs) animals. (a) dangerous (b) strong (c) wild (d) flesh-eating.

3. The work was assiduously (ä-sid'yoo-us-ly) performed. (a) with diligence and attention (b) with resentment (c) half-heartedly (d) quickly.

4. A suave (swahv) person is: (a) hard to get along with (b) smoothly polite and polished (c) reckless and irresponsible.

5. We quickly sensed her animosity (an'i-mos'i-ti). (a) fear (b) good humor (c) hostility (d) remorse.

6. The club had an auspicious (ö-spish'u)s beginning. (a) unhappy (b) costly (c) fair (d) favorable.

## Our Readers Say—

In my opinion, the United States should withdraw all its troops from the various occupied countries. If we did this, the people in these countries would probably settle matters among themselves in a reasonable amount of time and without too much trouble. JOSEPH STEFFEN,  
Ackley, Iowa

★ ★ ★  
I believe that if the American people continue to show as little interest in voting as they did in the last election, we may have a dictatorship here some day. This is what happened in other countries and there is no reason why it couldn't happen here. I hope the citizens of the United States wake up before it is too late. GENE HALSEY,  
Preston, Minnesota

★ ★ ★  
In your January 3 issue, Mabel Turner expressed the opinion that we should not allow any refugees to come to the United States. I disagree. I think that we should admit as many displaced persons as we can and even permit them to become American citizens. After all, we should not deprive anyone of the privilege of living here and enjoying our democracy so long as he obeys our laws and supports himself and his family.

CHESTER GORDON,  
Boulder, Colorado

★ ★ ★  
I believe that the government should increase unemployment insurance, old age pensions and other social security benefits at the present time. The cost of living has gone sky high and people need more money to buy all they need. The payments can be reduced when prices decline.

JERRY ROUSAR,  
Racine, Wisconsin

I would like to disagree with Robert Sjogren, who said in a recent letter that he is opposed to a world government. To my mind, a world government would have a number of great advantages. It would prevent another war, enable each country to reduce its army, and create law and order all over the globe. We might have to give up some of our sovereignty, but isn't it worth it if we can thereby achieve lasting peace?

SUE KEISKER,  
Quincy, Illinois

★ ★ ★  
The members of the Anaconda Key Club, which consists of high school students, would like to report that they have sent a package to Care for the aid of people overseas. They would like to thank Mr. Myer, your editor, for inspiring them to do this.

EDDIE SCHWARTZ,  
Anaconda, Montana

★ ★ ★  
In my opinion, we should not permit any European refugees at all to enter our country. The housing situation in the United States is bad enough without making it worse by admitting people from other countries. Our first responsibility is to see that our own citizens have decent homes to live in.

LOIS WEST,  
Huntsville, Missouri

★ ★ ★  
I believe that one of the most effective ways of checking inflation is to bring back price controls. Price controls would halt the rise in the cost of living and make our economy stable again.

BOB MACK,  
Racine, Wisconsin

(Address your letters to Readers Say,  
THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street,  
N. W., Washington 6, D. C.)



PUBLIC ROADS ADMINISTRATION

THE CONSTRUCTION of great highways and bridges has gone hand in hand with the growth of the automobile industry. The United States has one automobile for every five of its people.

## Auto Industry's 1949 Plans

**Car Manufacturers Think Their Output This Year Will Reach Record-Breaking Figure of Six Million Vehicles**

THE automobile industry is working at full speed in an effort to make 1949 a record production year. To reach this goal, it must beat the 1929 output of 5,358,000 vehicles. Last year the figure was 5,200,000, and during 1949 it is expected that 6,000,000 cars, trucks, and buses will go off the assembly line.

The automobile manufacturers think that the present year will witness the end of the car shortage. It is predicted that, before the end of 1949, prewar conditions will prevail and customers may buy cars and drive them away without much, if any, waiting. Even though production catches up with demand, the factories will continue to run at full blast and production in the great automobile industry will not be halted.

This activity on the part of the automobile factories will help to keep production high all along the line. It will be a stimulus to American industry as a whole. It will tend to keep employment at a high level, since the auto industry gives employment, directly or indirectly, to 9 million men and women—one-seventh of our working population.

Almost a million of these workers are employed in factories that make automobile parts or that assemble the finished cars. Others work for trucking companies, while many men are employed as salesmen, or mechanics in repair shops, or on the crews that build and maintain our highways.

All parts of our country, and many foreign nations as well, benefit by the prosperity of the motor industry. All our 48 states and 55 foreign countries contribute to the wide variety of raw materials that go into automobiles, trucks, and buses; and the plants that actually make and assemble the vehicles are located in 45 of our states.

We get an idea of how dependent other industries are upon the manufacture of automobiles when we enumerate the various products which are required in the making of cars, trucks and buses. The automobile factories use three-fourths of all the plate glass which is produced in the United States, and seven-tenths of the upholstery leather. The automobile plants consume one-fourth of the nickel used in the nation, and they use large parts of the steel, copper, lead, plastics, cotton, and wool.

Auto manufacturers furnish a profitable market for the farmers. Large quantities of corn, beeswax, flaxseed, and molasses are used in the production of plastics, varnishes, and other materials needed for cars.

The automobile industry has stimulated the development of a number of other industries in the United States during the past 50 years. Our great highway projects, for example, would never have been necessary had it not been for the use of cars on the roads. Before the auto age, there were few paved highways, and most dirt roads were virtually impassable at certain seasons of the year.

The petroleum industry, too, owes its growth largely to the automobile. Oils were needed, of course, before the automobile was invented, but consumption was relatively small. Today, nearly nine-tenths of the gasoline used in the United States is consumed by cars, trucks, and buses. The rubber industry is another one which owes its growth to the automobile.

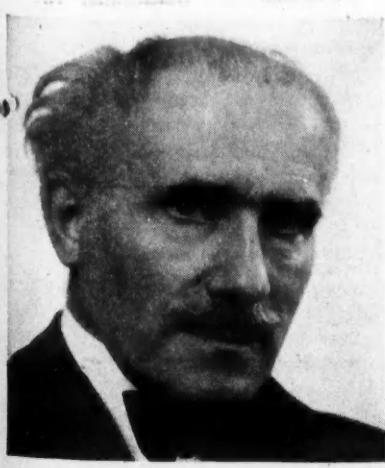
This huge automobile industry which has so greatly affected the life of the American people has moved with a giant's stride. It had its origin in times still remembered by many living men and women. A few automobiles were made in the early 1890's, only a little more than half a century ago. Most people thought the new invention impractical, but gradually the automobile won the approval of the public.

The first customer bought a car in 1896. It was built by Charles E. Duryea and a handful of mechanics. This group and others working along the same line had been tinkering for some time with the "newfangled contraptions."

American history has been very different from what it would have been had the automobile not come on the scene. Today, half a century later, automobile production holds a key position in the industrial life of the United States.

### Pronunciations

Nokrashy Pasha	naw'krah-she pah'
shah	
Thakin Nu	thä'-keen' nöö
Luang Pibul Songgram	lhahng pë'-bōn sōng-krahm'
Celebes	sell'u-hbez'
Hukbalahap	hük'bah-lah-hahp'



NBC  
ARTURO TOSCANINI, the famous orchestra conductor, has entertained millions of radio and television fans.

—By GEORGE EDSON.

# The Story of the Week

## Winter Golf

The winter golf circuit is in full swing. From now until April, many of the nation's best golfers will be competing in almost weekly tournaments in California, Arizona, Texas, and other states with mild winters.

Most of the participants in these tournaments are professional golfers who are competing for sizable cash prizes. The best players among them are able to earn large sums by their playing skill, but those who are not good enough to finish consistently among the prize-winners find that travel costs and hotel bills make tournament participation expensive.

In the Los Angeles Open Tournament, which opened the winter



LLOYD MANGRUM (left) and Ben Hogan, outstanding U. S. golfers, are touring the professional circuit now.

schedule earlier this month, Lloyd Mangrum, a 34-year-old veteran pro from Chicago, finished in first place. He will be among the favorites in other of the tournaments. Ben Hogan of Hershey, Pennsylvania, a top player of 1948 won the Bing Crosby Invitational at Pebble Beach, California, a week after the Los Angeles play.

## "March of Dimes"

The annual "March of Dimes" is now going into its final week. The yearly drive for funds to fight infantile paralysis will end on January 31. Officials expect to raise 30 million

dollars to combat this dread disease which strikes most often among children under 10. The funds are used for the medical care of polio patients, and for education and research aimed at finding a preventive or cure for the disease.

Leaders of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which sponsors the "March of Dimes," emphasize that it is particularly important that the drive go "over the top" this year. Last year saw the second-worst epidemic of the disease in this country's history, and more than 17 million dollars was spent in fighting it. Nearly 28,000 cases were reported in the United States in 1948, with North Carolina, Texas, and California hit the hardest of all. Medical leaders hope that continued support of the "March of Dimes" will result in conquering the disease.

## Grim Existence

Life in Berlin is grim this winter. Ruined buildings line the streets, and the division of the city into four separate sectors continues to prevent any widespread revival of trade and commerce. At night Berlin is dark, since electric power is severely rationed. Rooms are chilly most of the time, for an allotment of 25 pounds of coal every eight weeks does not permit much comfort.

Day and night over the western sectors of the city is heard the roar of the airlift as the low-flying planes come in to land at Tempelhof Airport. Every three minutes in good weather a C-54 coasts in with its precious cargo of coal and food for the people of the British, French, and American sectors. To most of the people of western Berlin, the airlift has become commonplace, and although they are grateful for the food and other supplies it brings, they go about their work without paying much attention to the incoming procession of planes.

The success of the airlift during



YOUNGEST MEN in the 81st Congress. Representatives Hugo S. Sims (left) of South Carolina and Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr., of Texas are the youngest members of the present Congress—both are 27.

these dark, winter months is unquestionably proving a blow to the Russians. They had hoped that the fog, snow, and rain at this season would cause the grounding of the planes. This would have kept the western sectors from being supplied with food and coal and would have forced the withdrawal of the western powers from Berlin. However, despite bad weather, the airlift has succeeded in landing 4,000 tons of supplies a day, an amount ample to keep the British, French, and American sectors going. The western powers are as firmly entrenched in the former German capital as they were before the winter months set in.

## Crisis in Middle East

The recently strained relations between Israel and Great Britain is keeping tension at a high pitch in the Middle East. This unfortunate turn of events occurred at a time when the prospects for peace between the Jews

and Arabs seemed the best they had been in many months. Consequently the crisis in relations between the Israeli and British governments is a blow to those groups who are working for world peace.

The present situation was brought on when Israeli forces shot down several British military planes along the border where Israel and Egypt adjoin. Great Britain protested the act, and indicated it might take military action if attacks by Jewish forces were made on either Egypt or Trans-Jordan. The British are bound by treaty to come to the aid of these countries if they are attacked by an outside power.

Israel—like Britain—protested to the United Nations. The Jewish state charged that Great Britain's military and political activity in the Middle East was aimed at her, and was a threat to world peace. Israel also protested the recent sending of British troops to nearby Trans-Jordan, an Arab state.

As we go to press, great efforts are being made to smooth over the situation. The United Nations is taking steps to prevent the outbreak of a "shooting war," while the United States has urged Great Britain to regard the shooting down of the planes only as a "regrettable incident" and to take no hasty steps that might lead to conflict.

Meanwhile, the decision of Israel and Egypt to go ahead with their peace talks on the Island of Rhodes is looked upon as one of the few encouraging developments in the Middle-Eastern situation. This marks the first time that any Arab country has agreed to treat Israel as a government. Previously Egypt—and the other Arab countries—had refused to admit the existence of the Jewish state in any way.

## Australian Wool

Australia's wool growers are having their greatest prosperity this year. During the past twelve months, they earned over 500 million dollars but in 1949 they are expected to add to their incomes and they will probably make close to 650 million.

This increase in earnings is due chiefly to the high price which the wool growers are now receiving for



FRENCH GRATITUDE TRAIN, as it was made ready for its ocean trip to the United States. Its 49 cars—one for each of the states and one to be divided between the District of Columbia and Hawaii—will bring famous French products to this country as a token of appreciation for our Friendship Train, sent to Europe last year, and for other American aid.

their "crop." The price of wool today is the highest in Australian history, and it is expected to go even higher in the near future.

Economists believe that the greater cost of Australian wool will force clothing made from it to unusually high price levels. This may have some effect on clothing prices in the United States for we buy large quantities of wool from Australia. The biggest customers for Australian wool, though, are Great Britain, Italy, and France.

The largest producer of wool in the world is Australia. Argentina is second, and we are third.

### Talented Pianist

Byron Janis is one of America's most successful young pianists. Although he is but 20 years old, he has already given about 100 concerts in this country and in South America. His first appearance in New York's famous Carnegie Hall recently brought enthusiastic praise from music critics.

Byron's interest in music dates back to his boyhood in Pittsburgh. When he was four years old, he was given a xylophone for Christmas. The boy took it to school with him and attracted the attention of his kindergarten teacher by playing "Jingle Bells." She allowed him to try the same tune on the piano, and he played it so expertly that the teacher recommended that he study music seriously.

His parents accepted the idea, and since then Mr. Janis has spent most of his time studying music under the best teachers. He made his first concert appearance at the age of nine.



BYRON JANIS, 20-year-old pianist, is appearing in concerts with some of the nation's leading symphony orchestras.

By the time he was 15, he was featured on a nation-wide radio broadcast. To master his profession, Mr. Janis has had to put in long hours of practice with lots of hard work and no applause.

A black-haired, energetic youth, Byron hopes to compose his own music later, but now he is working to broaden his command of classical music. In his spare time he likes to repair and paint furniture. An ardent baseball fan, he follows closely the progress of the Pittsburgh Pirates. He now lives with his family in New York City.

### Hawaiian Statehood

A strong campaign is expected to be made in the current session of Congress to pass a law making Hawaii the 49th state of the Union. Since Congress convened January 3, four



NEW FLAG? Hawaii is suggesting this adaptation of the United States flag for use if the territory is given full statehood. The proposed flag contains 49 rather than 48 stars

bills have been introduced providing for Hawaiian statehood, and several others may yet be submitted.

All of the measures so far brought before Congress are almost identical in their provisions, but they are sponsored by different Congressmen. They all provide that a state convention be called in Hawaii and that this convention draw up a state constitution. The people of Hawaii would then vote on the constitution at a special referendum and if it were approved, it would go to the President for his action. If he also approved the document, an election would be held to select the men who would represent Hawaii in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

A bill that proposed making Hawaii a state was passed by the House last spring, but it failed of passage in the Senate. The committee considering the measure refused to bring it to a vote by the entire chamber.

### Southern Italy

A large public works program is now getting under way in southern Italy with Marshall Plan assistance. Hospitals, roads, schools and other projects are to be built, and a considerable amount of money will be spent on two docks in the port of Naples. One will be a drydock for the building and repair of vessels, while the other will be a petroleum dock for the storage of oil shipped to Italy from the Middle East.

The entire program will cost about \$3 million dollars, but this is only a small percentage of the amount that Italy is receiving in Marshall Plan aid during the year ending April 1st. What Italy will receive after that date will depend on the outcome of discussions now going on in the United States Congress.

### China's War

Many groups in Nationalist China are urging President Chiang Kai-shek to seek peace with the Chinese Communists. But as we go to press, he has thus far refused to go beyond the offer he made to the Communists several weeks ago. At that time, China's president said he would be willing to make peace with the Communists but only under certain conditions. The Communists, however, demand that he surrender outright.

The Chinese government is seeking the aid of the Big Four—the United States, Great Britain, France, and

Russia—in obtaining an end to the civil war. But none of them is offering its help at the present time. The western powers are remaining aloof, and Russia sympathizes with the Communist forces rather than the Nationalist government.

Meanwhile, the Communist armies are continuing to inflict defeats on the Nationalist forces. Several weeks ago, they occupied Suchow, an important stronghold above the capital city of Nanking, and are now battling Chiang Kai-shek's troops near Nanking. In North China, the Communists recently seized Tientsin, a large industrial center with a population of 2 million. By the time these words appear, further events may have occurred to determine the course of China's civil war.

### Teacher Shortage

The nation's schools still suffer from a shortage of qualified teachers and a lack of school buildings and equipment. That is the opinion of the *New York Times*, which has just completed a study of conditions in America's educational system.

The *Times* says that there is a lack of properly trained teachers for two

chief reasons: Not enough college students are preparing to become teachers, while at the same time more children are now enrolled in elementary and high schools than in any previous year. In the 1947-48 school year, there were 24 million students. During the current year, there are nearly 25 million.

According to the *Times* survey, the outlook in many states is improving. The public is coming to appreciate more fully the importance of our schools, and many state legislatures are appropriating more money for teachers' salaries and for the construction of new school buildings.

### Report on the Navajos

The Navajo Indians are faring somewhat better this winter than they did a year ago when their impoverishment aroused wide-spread sympathy and resulted in Congress' voting them emergency relief. Many of this once-proud tribe raise sheep, and the high price of lamb in recent months has given them a larger income than is ordinarily the case. Too, for the first time in several years, they have harvested a big crop of pinon nuts and have realized a good income from that source. These nuts are often used in confections.

Observers say, however, that the basic problems of the Navajos are little changed from a year ago. Most of the land on their reservations in Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona is so barren and eroded that it almost defies reclamation.

The school situation has not improved much during the year and it is said that only one Navajo child in four ever goes to school. The observers hold that a thorough program providing more education for the Indians, improving their land, giving them better hospitals, and securing other necessities for them must still be worked out. Only thus can substantial advances be made and general living standards be raised to levels enjoyed by other Americans.

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

"What do you think of Arthur's meeting a girl on the coast-to-coast plane, and getting engaged before they landed?"  
"It merely proves that all the perils of air travel haven't yet been eliminated."

★ ★ ★

Youth: "I want to join the Army. I'm a track athlete."

Recruiting Officer: "Sorry. We don't want anybody who's trained to start running when a gun is fired."

★ ★ ★

"I've had a wonderful evening," said Groucho Marx to his hostess as he was leaving a dull Hollywood party, "but this wasn't it."

★ ★ ★

Boss: "What's this big item on your expense account?"

Salesman: "Oh, that's the bill for my hotel."

Boss: "Well, don't buy any more hotels."

★ ★ ★

An attorney on being called to account for having acted unprofessionally in taking less than the usual fee from his client, pleaded that he had taken all the man had.

He was therupon honorably acquitted.

Barber: "You hair needs cutting badly, sir."

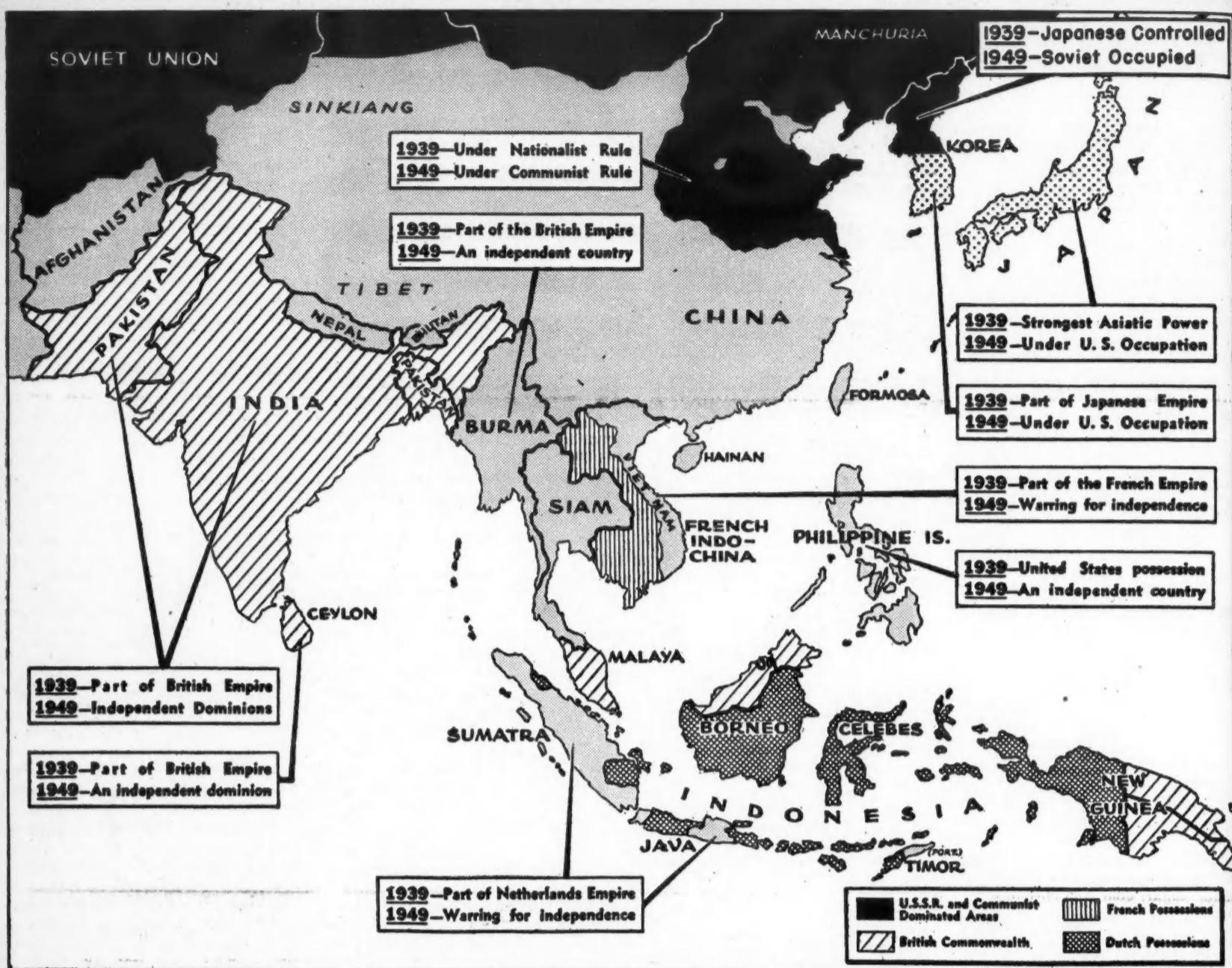
Customer: "I don't agree with you. It needs cutting nicely this time. You cut it badly the last time I was here."

Hubby (on hearing burglars in the house): "Sh-h, dear. This is going to be a battle of brains."

Wife: "How brave you are, dear, to fight unarmed."



"He says the answer is no, but he thanked me for my interest."



THE PAST TEN YEARS have brought independence to large sections of Asia and the Far East

NEW YORK TIMES

## Southeast Asia

(Concluded from page 1)

area about as large as Texas, Burma has 17 million inhabitants.

Most of the people are farmers, living in small villages of bamboo huts. The peasants lack modern farm implements, but fertile soil and good climate enable them to raise large crops of rice, cotton, and tropical fruits and vegetables.

Although Burma does not have many industries, she is rich in forests, oil, tin, copper, and lead. Her main products for sale abroad are rice, timber, and minerals.

Most of the nation's leaders and officials are young men. Some of the cabinet members are still in their twenties. Led by Prime Minister Thakin Nu, these young officials are trying to make a number of changes in their country. They are attempting to build new industries and to help farmers obtain better equipment. Property once owned by foreigners has largely been taken over by the government.

Communists are strong in Burma. Armed bands of them are seriously interfering with the plans of Thakin Nu and his followers. The government's reform program, however, is keeping many people out of the Communist ranks.

2. *Siam*. This ancient, independent nation resembles Burma in several

ways. Her land, like that of Burma, is fertile, and therefore the farmers obtain big yields of rice and other crops in spite of their poor equipment. Siam also produces tin, rubber, shellac, and such woods as teak and ebony. Having few factories, she sends raw materials abroad in exchange for manufactured items.

Covering about as much land area as do Colorado and Wyoming combined, Siam contains approximately 16 million people. Less than half her inhabitants can read and write.

For a long time, the nation has been governed mainly by groups of military officers and wealthy civilians. Bickering among themselves, these men often have neglected to deal with the nation's problems.

The Communists have been able to take advantage of this situation and stir up hatred against the government, headed by Prime Minister Luang Pibul Songgram. He has been in office about a year.

### Malaya and Britain

3. *Malaya*. Although still under British rule, the people of this land have recently been given a great deal of control over their own affairs. Britain, however, still handles defense matters and foreign relations. The city of Singapore, great port at the southern tip of the Malay Peninsula, remains under British supervision.

Malaya contains about as much land as does Alabama. She furnishes more than half the world's natural rubber,

and about a third of its tin—sending these materials abroad in exchange for food, machinery, and cloth. A great deal of valuable timber is obtained from her dense jungles.

The 6 million inhabitants of Malaya represent a mixture of races. People of Chinese descent carry on a great deal of the region's commerce. Most of the brown-skinned Malays work in the fields.

There is much unrest in Malaya. Poverty-stricken laborers are dissatisfied with their living conditions. The rival religious and nationality groups are suspicious of one another. A number of people, moreover, do not think that Britain has granted the natives enough self-rule.

Communists have done their part to stir up hatreds and to increase dissatisfaction. They have persuaded several thousand inhabitants of Malaya to join armed bands which are fighting against the government.

4. *French Indo-China*. A little larger than Texas in area, French Indo-China has about 25 million inhabitants. Like Malaya, it contains a mixture of Oriental peoples. Living in remote mountain areas are a number of primitive tribes. The natives are very poor, and few of them can read and write.

French Indo-China raises great quantities of rice. She also produces rubber, coffee, tea, cinnamon, and sugar. Her mines furnish a good grade of hard coal. There are only a few factories. Many Indo-Chinese,

however, engage in handicrafts, such as weaving and pottery-making, which require a high degree of skill.

Even before World War II, a number of Indo-Chinese were insisting that their country should be independent of France. They did not feel that the Europeans had paid enough attention to the natives' welfare. When France regained control of Indo-China at the end of the war, she tried to satisfy the people by offering to let native officials have more authority over local affairs.

### Not Accepted Everywhere

In some areas this offer was accepted. But in a section known as Viet Nam, a native army is fighting against the French. Its leaders have said that they want complete independence. The Communists are working with this group, but if it comes into power they will probably try to overthrow its leaders and seize political control for themselves.

5. *Indonesia*. This Dutch possession includes about 3,000 of the countless islands which lie between Asia and Australia. It is about half as large in population, and a fourth as large in land area, as the United States. Borneo and New Guinea are among the largest of the islands.

Most of the people are of the brown-skinned Malay race. The vast majority of them live in poverty, although their islands have yielded rich returns to the owners of plantations, mines, and oil fields. The Indies normally

produce and sell abroad large quantities of sugar, rubber, spices, oil, tin, and valuable tropical wood.

Indonesia's present trade relations with the outside world, as well as business conditions within the islands, are now suffering as a result of the dispute between the Dutch and native leaders. These two groups have been quarreling and fighting ever since the end of the war. Plans were worked out to give the natives in certain sections their independence, but so many disputes developed that the Dutch recently invaded the Republic of Indonesia.

This conflict is holding back progress in the islands, and is providing the Communists with a good opportunity to increase their influence. They tried to overthrow the government of the Indonesian Republic, but failed. They are now waging a campaign of propaganda against the Dutch for doing what they themselves were unable to do; namely, overthrowing the Republic.

**6. Philippines.** Before World War II, the United States promised to give the Philippines freedom by 1946. Japanese forces captured and occupied the islands during the war, but they were driven out in 1945. Our promise was fulfilled, and the Philippines became a completely independent nation more than two years ago, on July 4, 1946.

#### Small Total Area

Home of about 17 million people, the Philippines have a little more land area than does Arizona. Although there are more than 7,000 islands in the group, only 30 are large enough to be of great importance. Outstanding among the country's products are coconuts, sugar, gold, and chromite.

The Filipinos have made good progress in education. Less than 50 years ago only a tenth of the people could read and write. About half the population could do so by the time World War II began. Eight languages and about 87 dialects are spoken in the islands, but approximately a third of the people understand English.

The Philippines are getting along better than are most other lands in the Southeast Asia region, but they, too, have a great deal of unrest. On the island of Luzon, the Hukbalahap political group has been carrying on guerrilla warfare against the government. Its leaders claim to speak for poverty-stricken farmers whose interests, they say, are being neglected. The Philippine government, though, contends that the Hukbalahaps consist mainly of Communists and of bandit gangs. Friction between the "Huks" and the government continues and outbreaks sometimes occur.



THREE LIONS



THE NILE is Egypt's main artery of commerce

## Science News

EXT summer U. S. farmers will be able to protect their crops of beans and some other vegetables from rabbits and deer, by spraying the plants with a recently discovered chemical mixture. Although the mixture is not poisonous, it is so distasteful to the wild creatures that they leave the plants alone after eating a few leaves.

★ ★ ★

Research workers at the Yale University School of Medicine are experimenting with a blood test for cancer. So far, the test has been able to spot the disease in about 75 per cent of cases. Doctors hope that eventually the test will be as widely used as is the X-ray examination in the discovery of tuberculosis.

★ ★ ★

The National Geographic Society states that there are nearly 5,600 weather "hobbyists" in the United States and its possessions who are cooperating regularly with the Weather Bureau's regular staff of workers. These amateur weather observers include editors, bankers, doctors, postmasters, housewives, storekeepers, and farmers.

The government provides its voluntary



WIDE WORLD  
MIDGET PHONOGRAPH and records—introduced by RCA Victor. The seven-inch records contain the same music as the standard ten or twelve-inch records. They can be played only on the new Victor player. Other companies are putting out similar equipment.

tary workers with thermometers, a rain gauge, and an instrument shelter so that daily readings on temperature, rainfall, or snowfall may be made. These amateur observers also note wind velocity and direction.

In addition to the thousands of non-paid observers, the Weather Bureau has many part-time reporters who send in information on floods, river levels, and forest and crop conditions.

★ ★ ★

Archaeologists from the University of Alaska have recently made one of their most important Arctic discoveries. They have found traces of an ancient stone age culture in the northern territory. The "find" consists of a layer of stone implements which were once used as knives by an ancient people. Instruments similar to these have also been located in the Gobi Desert in Asia, which would seem to indicate a possible link between the Eskimos of Alaska and the people of Asia.

—By HAZEL LEWIS.

## Egypt's Troubled Times

### Defeat by Israel Adds to Problems

**E**GYPT and Israel have been carrying on discussions which may bring a peace settlement between them. Along with other Arab countries, Egypt has been badly beaten in the fight against Israeli forces.

Defeats in the Palestine conflict, together with other problems, have stirred up a great deal of unrest within the African nation during recent weeks. Political disputes have flared. Anger over the government's way of conducting its part in the war is said to have been at least partly responsible for the murder, late last month, of Egypt's Prime Minister Nokrashy Pasha.

Egypt's troubles attract notice because, although she is not a powerful nation, she occupies an extremely vital region. Through her territory runs the Suez Canal, passageway for ships that travel between Europe and the Orient. Egypt lies near the important Middle-Eastern oil lands, and within a comparatively short distance of Mediterranean trouble-spots such as war-torn Greece.

Egypt's prominence in ancient times is another reason for the attention she receives today. Thousands of years before the birth of Christ, Egyptians built a great civilization in the valley of the Nile River. They erected magnificent temples, and such monuments as the Sphinx and the Pyramids. They developed an elaborate system of irrigation.

Eventually, however, Egypt's strength declined and the country fell to foreign conquerors. Ancient Assyria, Persia, Macedonia, and Rome each for a while controlled the Egyptian gateway to Africa.

The struggle for Egypt has continued down to modern times, and the nation controlling her most recently has been Great Britain. In 1922, Egypt was declared an independent kingdom. Some ties with Britain remained, but these have gradually been loosened.

Today, the Egyptians are independent except for the fact that the British insist on the right to keep troops in that land to safeguard the Suez Canal and other British interests in Africa. She has promised to withdraw her troops in 1956.

Egypt covers about as much area as do Texas and New Mexico combined. If all this land were useful, there would be plenty of room for her 19 million people. The trouble is that nearly the whole country is barren desert. Only a few scattered oases and a narrow strip of irrigated ground along the Nile River are productive. This strip, containing about as much land as does the state of Maryland, is one of the most densely populated regions on earth.

Since Egypt is not rich in minerals or other natural resources, most of the inhabitants of the valley make their living by farming. In Northeast Africa's warm climate, they raise big crops of cotton, wheat, corn, rice, beans, and onions. Egypt's fields, irrigated with the silt-laden water of the Nile, produce, per acre, the largest yields of corn and cotton in the world.

In spite of the excellent crops which they raise, the farmers of this region are among the poorest people to be found anywhere. Productive though it is, the Nile Valley does not furnish a decent living for all the human beings who are crowded into it. Farm families and domestic animals usually live together in small mud huts that have no roofs.

Since the Egyptian peasants live under filthy conditions, and since their diets are meager and poorly balanced, it is not surprising that they are diseased and sickly. Eye infections are especially common among them; numerous ailments take away their energy; and deadly epidemics frequently sweep the land. Many of the people do not even understand the reasons for their poor health. About four-fifths of them are unable to read or write.

Although many observers feel that the relatively few wealthy and educated Egyptians—those who control the nation—are not sufficiently interested in the common people's welfare, it is true that the government is taking some steps to improve living conditions. New schools and health centers are being established in a number of areas. In many villages efforts are being made to provide, for the first time, clean drinking water.

—By THOMAS K. MYER.

# Career for Tomorrow -- Traffic Manager

**A** TRAFFIC manager is a person who supervises the shipment of goods—the shipment of raw materials to a manufacturer or of finished industrial products to the retail outlet or consumer. A traffic manager may work for a business or industrial firm or he may be employed by a transportation company. In either case, his primary duty is to see that goods are transported safely and quickly to their destinations. He must also see that costs of shipping are kept down.

A traffic manager's work can perhaps best be explained by following his duties in relation to a particular job. A furniture manufacturer, let us say, gets an order for 100 chairs. The order is given to the traffic manager. He decides how the chairs are to be packed for shipping, by what method they are to be shipped (by rail or truck, for instance), and what route they are to follow. The traffic manager then supervises the men in his department who get the chairs ready for shipment—the handlers and packers, the rate and traffic clerks, and the shipping clerks.

If the chairs do not arrive at their destination on time, or if they are damaged en route, the complaint that is turned in to the company is given to the traffic manager. He is not concerned with making the order good—other departments do that—but he checks every step in the shipping details to find the error so that a similar one will not be made again.

A traffic manager who is employed by a transportation company supervises his company's handling of shipments, but he does not have to plan

the packing of goods. He may, though, act as a salesman for his firm and try to interest industrial traffic managers in using its facilities.

To succeed as a traffic manager a young man should have an alert and analytical mind. He must also have a good memory, for his work will re-



TRAFFIC MANAGERS supervise the making of large shipments of goods

quire that he keep in mind such details as shipping rates, schedules, insurance details, and local and federal shipping regulations. A traffic manager should be tactful and diplomatic; and he should have executive ability, for he will usually supervise a large number of employees.

A college education is not necessary for a person who is considering a career as a traffic manager, though such education will be helpful. Real preparation for this field can be obtained only through on-the-job experience. A young man who has a college degree, as well as the one who has only a high

school diploma, will find that he must start at the bottom of the ladder—usually as a packer or stock clerk—and work his way through the various jobs in the traffic department before he will be qualified for a top position.

A man who has been to college may find that he goes ahead faster than he would if he had not secured an advanced education. The high school graduate may, on the other hand, find that he will advance more rapidly if he takes night courses in the technical subjects related to the work.

In high school a young man who is thinking of this field should take business law, bookkeeping, mathematics, English, and economic geography, if it is available.

A number of colleges and universities give special work in traffic management. Among the courses offered are: general economics, marketing methods, rate and tariff problems, law of interstate commerce, and principles of international trade.

Beginning positions in the traffic management field pay between \$25 and \$45 a week. An experienced traffic manager who is qualified to supervise the traffic department for a large firm may earn as much as \$15,000 or \$25,000 a year. Most persons who hold top positions probably earn between \$7,500 and \$12,000 a year.

Very few women are employed as traffic managers.

Further information on the field may be secured from the National Industrial Traffic League, Munsey Building, 1329 E Street, N. W., Washington 4, D. C.

—By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

## Study Guide

### Budget

1. Give figures showing the extent to which United States government spending has increased during the past half-century.

2. How large a total expenditure does President Truman recommend for the fiscal year of 1950?

3. Describe the way in which the President prepares the budget.

4. What action does Congress take in regard to the budget?

5. Of the total amount which President Truman proposes to spend in the bookkeeping year of 1950, about how much is to go for war and defense costs?

6. List some other purposes for which the government will spend large amounts of money.

7. From what sources is the money for government expenses to be obtained?

### Discussion

1. Do you feel that any of President Truman's proposed government expenditures are higher or lower than necessary? Defend your position.

2. What additional items, if any, do you think he should have requested? Give reasons for your answer.

### Southeast Asia

1. What line of action do the Communists generally take in parts of Southeast Asia that are under foreign domination?

2. What are their tactics in the independent lands of that region?

3. About how long has Burma been independent?

4. Give some characteristics which all or most of the countries of the Far East have in common.

5. Describe the present relationship between Malaya and Great Britain.

6. Tell of the relationship between the Dutch and the Indonesians.

7. Compare the educational progress of the Philippines with that of other lands in the Far Eastern region.

### Discussion

1. Do you think there is serious danger that Communists will gain control in the Far East? Give reasons for your answer.

2. By what policies, in your opinion, can the United States and other Western nations best fight communism in that area? Explain your position.

### Miscellaneous

1. What has been the outstanding factor in the lives of the people of Berlin this winter?

2. Why have relations between Israel and Great Britain been strained?

3. List several projects that are being undertaken in Italy with funds received under the Marshall Plan.

4. As this paper went to press, were the Nationalists or the Communists in China winning the greater number of victories?

5. What is happening, according to the *New York Times*, to improve the situation in the nation's schools?

6. Briefly describe the conditions under which most of the Egyptian people live.

7. List several industries in the United States that developed as a result of the widespread use of the automobile.

8. Cite three examples to show America's progress in the field of health.

### References

"Edge of Upheaval," *Newsweek*, June 28, 1948. Report on Communist activities in Southeast Asia.

"Southeast Asia Plan," *Time*, October 4, 1948. Describes Communist plans for the various countries of the Far East.

### Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (b) disclaimed; 2. (d) flesh-eating;
3. (a) with diligence and attention; 4. (b) smoothly polite and polished; 5. (c) hostility; 6. (d) favorable.

# Historical Backgrounds -- Health Progress

IT is sometimes assumed that the pioneers who settled in America, and conquered the continent were much more healthy than people are today. This is not true. Henry Adams, in his "History of the United States from 1801 to 1817," says that the early pioneers did not have a balanced diet and suffered a great deal from stomach ailments. Their teeth were bad and, on the whole, people were less strong and vigorous than Americans of today.

An American born in 1800 might expect to live to the age 35. That was the average life span of the time. An American born in 1880 might expect to live to the age of 40. The average child born today may expect to live approximately 65 years.

This lengthening of the average life has come about as a result of scientific progress in the field of medicine, and also as a result of governmental action by which the people, through public agencies, combat disease and protect health.

The greatest advances have been in combating the diseases of infancy. An infant born today has a far better chance to live through the first few years than had a child born 100 years ago or even 50 years ago. Many of the diseases of childhood have been practically wiped out.

Furthermore, certain adult diseases no longer take the heavy toll of lives that they formerly did. Only 60 or 70 years ago, the ravages of

yellow fever were serious, and now that disease has been eliminated.

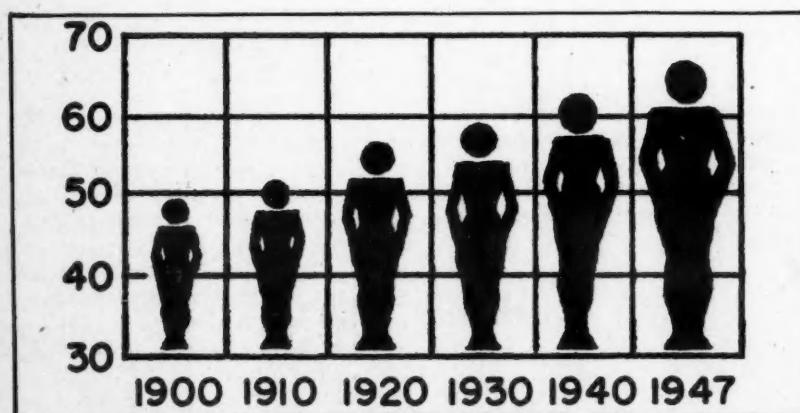
At the turn of this century, 36 persons out of every 100,000 died of typhoid fever, and now less than five in 100,000 are its victims.

Diphtheria and pneumonia, both of which were deadly killers in the past, no longer strike terror in the hearts of people.

The war on disease, through achievements in the field of medicine, is by no means over. In the laboratories of the hospitals and medical centers, men of science are working today to discover the causes and cure of cancer and other diseases.

In addition, local, state, and national governments have their health services. Schools and colleges are increasingly concerned with the health of their students. The United States Public Health Service is active in the war against disease. Many corporations maintain staffs of doctors and nurses to look after their employees.

Through the combination of scientific discovery and better organization of health services, both private and public, the physical and mental well-being of the American people is steadily improving. Everyone knows, of course, that much remains to be done in conquering disease. No one recognizes this fact more than the thousands of people in the medical profession who are constantly striving to improve our health still further.



AVERAGE AMERICAN'S LIFE EXPECTANCY has increased greatly